

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 11-30 are pending in this application. Claims 11, 15, 21, and 25 are independent. Claims 11-15 and 17-20 are hereby amended. Claims 21-30 are hereby added. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 11-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11-20 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections.

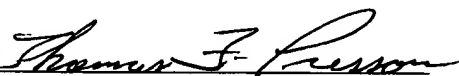
The amendments herewith to claims 11-15 and 17-20 obviate the 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections, and Applicant respectfully submits that claims 11-20 are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By 
Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800